

INFORMATION REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Activities of the Chinese Communist Forces
in Construction Work

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Irregular troops of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), composed largely of defected or captured Nationalist troops, during the spring of 1950 were distributed into frontier regions in northern and western Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, Sinkiang, Tsinghai, and Kansu for permanent duty. Their mission was to carry out construction work for national defense and, in the Northwest, to work on communications arteries between China and the USSR.
2. At the Communist military celebration on 1 August, the CCP published a bulletin for party distribution only giving an account of the activities of these troops.* According to this publication, the following things have been accomplished:
 - a. 3,339,000 mou (approximately 556,550 acres) of land have been developed for agricultural production, including 800,000 mou in Sinkiang and 520,000 mou in northern Manchuria.
 - b. More than a million square meters of water construction work has been completed and dams which can supply water to a million mou (approximately 166,666 acres) of land have been repaired or constructed.
 - c. In the Southwest Military Zone, Chengtu and Chiang Yen (江 沿) annual construction quotas have been completed. The Chengtu-Chungking Railway construction and repair are completed.**
 - d. In the Northwest Military Zone, a 710-kilometer (approximately 441 miles) section of the Tientshui (105-28, 34-35)-Paochi (106-58, 34-16) railway has been repaired. Repair work requiring 2,300,000 miles (sic)*** earth and stone for paving was completed on the Tientshui-Lanowen highway.
 - e. In Tsinghai, 346 kilometers (approximately 214 miles) of highway from Sining toward Yushu was completed.
 - f. In Sinkiang, construction is continuing on several thousand kilometers of highway designed to promote Chinese and Soviet communication.

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g. Some troops in the Northwest are also raising livestock.

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*

Comment. Agricultural developments achieved by PLA units have received much publicity in Communist radio broadcasts since spring 1960.

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Comment. work on this line had stopped in mid July, but did not imply it had been completed.

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Comment. This measurement was not explained.

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